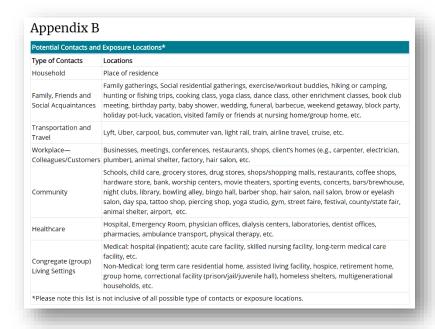
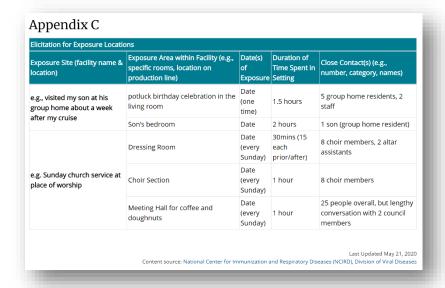
Possible Exposures Obtained Through Case Investigation

How does public health collect data related to possible COVID exposures?

During the case interview with an individual who has contracted COVID, the investigator asks questions related to how the individual may have contracted the illness and who they may have exposed after their infection. They also ask about sites such as the individual's worksite, businesses the individual may have visited, or events attended. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided guidance to public health agencies on this process.





Source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/keyinfo.html

How is this data used?

Data collected during case investigation of any diseases is used to identify possible risks associated with exposure, contacts that may have also been exposed to the illness, opportunities to intervene or prevent further spread, and disparities related to those risks (i.e. occupational risk, racial/ethnic disparities, geographic disparities, etc.). This data is analyzed and released according to NRS and NAC 441A. This data may also be shared with the appropriate regulatory authorities for additional investigation. Any data released cannot allow an individual case or contact to be identified.

How should this data be interpreted?

All data obtained in case investigations and contact tracing is obtained voluntarily and is self-reported. This data is often incomplete due to memory or the case simply not wanting to share certain information. Lack of sharing of such information delays or impedes the ability for public health to identify and intervene when a risk is present.

If there is a specific activity or location identified through exposure data, this could mean a variety of things and requires additional follow up beyond the investigation. For example, a business that is identified at a high rate may be offering routine testing of employees, so cases are identified more timely and at a higher rate than a business that does not offer testing to their employees. Or, a business who is identified often may have areas that could be improved to lessen risk to employees and patrons and identification of that risk allows for future exposure to be minimized.

Identification of a business, event, or individual that the positive person was in contact with does not mean the person became infected from that encounter.